



# U.S. House of Representatives Committee on the Judiciary F. James Sensenbrenner, Jr., Chairman

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## ***News Advisory***

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## **Sensenbrenner Highlights PATRIOT Act Conference Report Civil Liberty Safeguard #18**

WASHINGTON, D.C. – House Judiciary Committee Chairman F. James Sensenbrenner, Jr. (R-Wis.) today highlighted another one of the dozens of civil liberties safeguards included in the PATRIOT Act conference report approved last month by a bipartisan majority of the House and pending before the U.S. Senate.

### **PATRIOT Act Conference Report Civil Liberty Safeguard #18 – Requiring a Report to Congress on Any Use of Data-Mining Programs by the Justice Department:**

Data-mining programs take vast amounts of information and try to utilize it for specific purposes such as identifying a group with similar features. These programs can be helpful in “connecting the dots” and are becoming more useful as a tool to bolster homeland security. Congress wants to ensure that agencies using data-mining programs take all necessary steps to protect privacy and the unauthorized dissemination of information.

**The PATRIOT Act conference report enhances congressional oversight of data-mining programs by requiring the Justice Department to report to Congress on the use or development of any of these programs by the Justice Department.** This report will help inform Members of Congress of the civil liberty protections that are built into – or should be built into – these Justice Department data-mining programs. This new civil liberty safeguard contained in the PATRIOT Act conference report does not exist in current law and was written by Reps. Howard Berman (D-Calif.) and William Delahunt (D-Mass.).

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